

*A\cont.*

12. (Amended) A method of preparing a [an antigen-presenting] dendritic cell population comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting hematopoietic stem or progenitor cells with flt3-ligand in an amount sufficient to generate a dendritic cell population;
- (b) either (i) exposing the dendritic cells to an antigen-specific peptide or (ii) transfecting the dendritic cells with a gene encoding an antigen-specific peptide; and
- (c) allowing the dendritic cells to process and express the antigen[; and]
- (d) purifying the antigen-expressing dendritic cells].

13. (Amended) A method according to claim 12, wherein step (a) further comprises contacting the hematopoietic stem or progenitor cells with a molecule selected from the group consisting of GM-CSF, IL-4, TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-3, c-kit ligand, fusions of GM-CSF and IL-3, and CD40 binding protein[, 4-1BBL and antibodies reactive with 4-1BB].

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#### REMARKS

##### **Status of the Claims**

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-7 and 14, and amended claims 9-13. Claims 8-13 are pending. For the convenience of the Examiner a copy of the pending claims, as amended, is presented as an appendix. Claims 8-13 are subject to restriction and election requirements, the requirements being traversed above.

Respectfully submitted,



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